

April 26, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is now accepting applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The application period began today and will run thru **5:00pm**

Friday, May 28, 2010

, with awards being announced later this year.

"The AFG program provides critical funding for our first responders to purchase additional rescue vehicles or make equipment upgrades that wouldn't normally be possible due to budget restrictions," **said Arcuri**. "Ensuring our firefighters have these additional resources available allows them to protect our communities as safely and effectively as possible. I encourage any departments in need of funding to contact my office to learn how they can apply for this valuable funding."

Last month, Arcuri hosted a Fire Grant Workshop in Cortland, NY, lead by FEMA Regional Fire Grant Specialist David Gronsbell, to help emergency first responders in across Upstate New York apply for grants through the AFG Program. This year a total of 25 fire departments in Arcuri's district have been awarded nearly \$1.8 million in funding through the 2009 AFG program. Since taking office in 2007, Arcuri has held 5 Fire Grant Workshops and assisted more than 90 local fire departments in securing approximately \$6.8 million in funding through the AFG program.

Program guidance, an application tutorial and instructions as well as the electronic application for the AFG program are available at: www.firegrantsupport.com . Additionally, fire departments that have specific questions regarding this grant opportunity should contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or email to

firegrants@dhs.gov

. During the application period, Help Desk hours will be from 8:00am to 8:00pm, Monday

through Friday, and on Saturdays from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

This year, Congress approved \$390 million for the AFG program which awards competitive grants in two areas. The first is the Operations and Safety Program Area in which funding is used for training, equipment, wellness and fitness and health and safety modifications to the facilities. The second is the Vehicle Acquisition Program Area would allow departments to purchase various types of rescue vehicles including ambulances, hazardous materials clean up vehicles, tankers and pumper trucks.

Local fire departments interested in applying for AFG program grants, a letter of support for an application, or to attend a future Fire Grants Workshop are encouraged to call Arcuri's Utica, NY office at 315-793-8146.

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